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Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 IGA-02 PC-01 COME-00

AGR-05 SP-02 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 INT-05

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R 171535Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2446
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 NIAMEY 4857

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, NG
SUBJ: BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US AND NIGER

PARIS FOR EMBASSY AND DAC CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS

REF: NIAMEY 4728 AND PREVIOUS

1. US AND GON REPS MET INFORMALLY FOR HOUR DECEMBER 16
TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHMENT AT SOME FUTURE DATE OF BILATERAL
TALKS TO PROMOTE CONSTRUCTIVE COLLABORATION AND DIALOGUE
WITH NIGER ON OUR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM HERE.

2. GON SIDE WAS LED BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEVELOPMENT
ANNOU AND MFA SECRETARY GENERAL DIATTA PLUS REPRESENTATIVES
OF MINISTRIES OF HEALTH, RURAL ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT.
US WAS REPRESENTED BY MESSRS. SCOTT, SHEAR AND GILBERT FROM
AID/W, RDO BARON, PC DIRECTOR EKSTROM AND MYSELF. PC DIRECTOR
EKSTROM WAS INCLUDED BECAUSE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN NIGER
IS SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN OUR OVERALL EFFORT
IN NIGER.

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3. DISCUSSION WAS RELAXED, TO THE POINT AND PROVIDED

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ASSISTANT AID ADMINISTRATOR SCOTT WITH USEFUL INTRO-
DUCTION TO GON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, PROBLEMS AND
PRIORITIES.

4. AFTER PRELIMINARY AMENITIES SCOTT OPENED
WITH BRIEF STATEMENT COVERING FOLLOWING POINTS.

A. HE ASSURED GON OF DEEP US COMMITMENT TO AID
AND COOPERATION IN SAHELIAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING NIGER.
PRESIDENT FORD WAS PERSONALLY CONCERNED ON NEED TO
HELP AND THERE WAS STRONG CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE FOR
US TO ENGAGE ITSELF IN SAHEL TO HELP COUNTRIES LIKE
NIGER RECOVER FROM DROUGHT AND STRENGTHEN THEMSELVES
TO WITHSTAND FUTURE ADVERSITIES BETTER. REFLECTING
CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE WE EOISAGED OUR MAJOR EMPHASIS
TO BE IN SECTORS OF RURAL POVERTY, FOOD AND
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, HEALTH AND POPULATION,
EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT.

B. IN PURSUING SUCH GOALS WE WISHED HANDLE OUR
BILATERAL AID ON BASIS OF FULL PARTNERSHIP WITH NIGER.
WE SOUGHT CONSTRUCTIVE COLLABORATION AND DIALOGUE WITH
NIGER ON IDENTIFYING AND IMPLEMENTING
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS JOINTLY UNDERTAKEN. TO THIS END
WE WELCOMED CONCEPT OF BILATERAL TALKS AS SUGGESTED
EARLIER BY PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE.

C. US GOVERNMENT HAS EXPANDED RESOURCES FLOW
INTO SAHEL NEARLY THREE-FOLD IN PAST TWO YEARS TO
DEAL WITH SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM NEEDS. THERE IS
ALSO NEED FOR LONGER-TERM PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING
WICH WILL REQUIRE GREATER RESOURCES. US CANNOT DO
JOB ALONE AND IT IS THEREFORE TAKING INITIATIVES TO
INSURE SUSTAINED INTERNATIONAL EFFORT, ONE SUCH
INITIATIVE BEING CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL WHICH
MERITS GON'S CLOSE STUDY AND SUPPORT.

5. ANNOU WELCOMED SCOTT'S PRESENTATION WHICH WAS IN
ACCORD WITH GON'S OWN VIEW OF ITS DEVELOPMENT AND
SECTOR PRIORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS. THESE WOULD SHORTLY
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BE ANNOUNCED IN 3-YEAR PLAN. ANNOU WAS PARTICULARLY
PLEASED TO NOTE OUR EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOP-
MENT BECAUSE GON'S OVERRIDING CONCERN WAS TO PROVIDE
BETTER LIFE FOR ITS PEOPLE. NIGER HAD GONE THROUGH A
CRITICAL PERIOD DURING DROUGHT. THINGS WERE IMPROVING
BUT SINCE ONE COULD NOT RELY ON WEATHER, GON DEVELOPMENT
STRETEGY SOUGHT TO REDUCE MAN'S DEPENDANCE ON WEATHER FOR
HIS LIVELIHOOD AND TO MAKE COUNTRY AS INDEPENDENT OF

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OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE AS POSSIBLE. GON WAS GRATEFUL FOR
FOREIGN AID BUT IN LONG RUN, NIGER MUST RELY ON ITSELF
AND NOT OTHERS.

6. ANNOU THEN SET FORTH FOLLOWING FIVE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT
OBJECTIVES:

A. INCREASE IN FOOD PRODUCTION. BOTH US AND
GON WERE ALREADY COLLABORATING IN THIS SECTOR.

B. IMPROVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK; WITH EMPHASIS ON
RECONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL HERD WHILE IMPROVING
MARKETING OF CATTLE.

C. EXPLOITATION OF MINERALS. IN THIS SECTOR
GON NOW HAD ENOUGH DATA TO HAVE GENERAL IDEA OF ITS
MINERAL RESOURCES. THESE WERE EXPLOITABLE AND
PROCEEDS WOULD BE USED TO FINANCE OTHER DEVELOPMENT
SECTORS. AS THIS RESOURCE WAS NOT REPLACEABLE, GON
STRATEGY WAS TO STRENGTHEN OTHER SECTORS AGAINST DAY
WHEN MINERALS WOULD BE EXHAUSTED.

D. COMMUNICATIONS, PARTICULARLY ROADS. THESE
WERE BADLY NEEDED AND COULD EITHER PRECEDE A PARTICULAR
NEED FOR FOLLOW IT. SAMPLE OF FORMER WAS CANADIAN ROAD
TO N'GUIGMI WHICH WAS OEPNING UP AREA IN ADVANCE OF NEED
AND WHICH WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHEASTERN
AREA OF COUNTRY.

E. HUMAN RESOURCES, INCLUDING HEALTH. IN THIS SECTOR
GON STRATEGY WAS FIRST TO TRAIN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF NIGERIENS
TO TAKE OVER FROM FOREIGN ADVISERS. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WAS
BASICALLY SUCCESSFUL ONLY IF IT PROGRAMMED ITSELF OUT OF
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EXISTENCE. SECONDLY BY 1978 GON HOPED TO HAVE AT LEAST
50 PERCENT OF TECHNICAL POSITIONS IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT
MANNED BY NIGERIENS.

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PARIS FOR EMBASSY AND DAC CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS

7. SCOTT SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY ANNOU'S PRESENTA-
TION AND GON CONCEPTS AND PRIORITIES WHICH AS ANNOU
HAD NOTED SEEMED CONSISTENT WITH OUR OWN APPROACH. WE
APPEARED TO BE ON SAME WAVE LENGTH AND IN THIS CONTEXT
WE WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE IN FUTURE.
SHEAR NOTED THAT WE WERE ALREADY ENGAGED IN SEVERAL
SECTORS DESCRIBED BY ANNOU SUCH AS FOOD PRODUCTION
AND LIVESTOCK. HE ALSO INFORMED GON OF OUR INTENTION
TO INCREASE US RESOURCES IN THESE SECTORS. US WAS
INTERESTED IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HOPED GON'S
NEEDS COULD BE EXAMINED FURTHER IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS.
IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL AT NEXT MEETING TO HAVE
DESCRIPTION OF GON'S 3-YEAR PLAN. AS RESOURCES
REQUIRED TO FINANCE THIS PLAN UNDOUBTEDLY INVOLVED
SUMS LARGER THAN THOSE ALREADY COMMITTED BY DONORS,
US WAS PREPARED TO HELP MOBILIZE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITYTO ASSIST NIGER ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE
CLUB DES AMIS.

8. ANNOU EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS SATISFIED WITH TREND OF
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DISCUSSIONS WHICH HE HOPED WOULD TRIGGER BILATERAL
DISCUSSIONS IN NEAR FUTURE. HE FELT WE HAD MADE A
GOOD START IN THIS DIALOGUE. GON WOULD WELCOME
US SUGGESTIONS ON MODALITIES AND SUBJECT MATTER OF
NEXT TALKS. IT WAS LEFT THAT AFTER DEPT AND AID/W
HAD REFLECTED ON NEXT STEPS, EMBASSY WOULD

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PURSUE MATTER WITH GON.HECK

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